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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/815,317	03/22/2001	Timothy R. Kane	END9 2000 0168 US1	4656
7590	10/20/2004		EXAMINER	
Shelley M. Beckstrand, P.C. 314 Main Street Owego, NY 13827			MCQUELLAN, JAMES S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3627	

DATE MAILED: 10/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.	09/815,317	Applicant(s)	KANE ET AL.
Examiner	James S McClellan	Art Unit	3627

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address —

### Period for Reply

#### A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.  
2a) This action is FINAL.                                    2b) This action is non-final.  
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.  
7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Amendment*

1. Applicant's submittal of an amendment was entered on June 28, 2004 wherein:
  - claims 1-11 are pending and
  - claims 10-11 have been added.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,668,253 (hereinafter "Thompson") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,055,516 (hereinafter "Johnson").

Regarding **claim 1**, Thompson discloses a method of maintaining synchronization of ledger accounts between various systems comprising the steps of: associating a plurality of companies within a company group, the companies using the same chart of accounts (see column 1, lines 48-51, "common chart of accounts"); maintaining a chart of accounts in a first system; periodically extracting from said chart of accounts account identification indicia and descriptive information for a given company (see column 25, line 40 – column 26, line 24); communicating said indicia and information to a second system (see column 25, lines 44-46), storing said indicia

and information in a data store of valid general ledger accounts associated with said company group for said given company (see column 25, lines 57-59).

Regarding **claim 4**, Thompson discloses an accounting system as set forth in detail for claim 1.

Regarding **claim 8**, Thompson discloses a program storage device embodying a program of instructions for maintaining synchronization of ledger accounts as set forth in detail for claim 1.

Regarding **claim 9**, Thompson discloses a computer program product for maintaining synchronization of ledger accounts as set forth in detail for claim 1.

Thompson fails to disclose the accounting system including a procurement system and a requisition/catalog system.

Johnson teaches the use of an accounting system that coordinates an procurement system and a requisition/catalog system (see column 5, liens 24-40).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Thompson with the procurement/catalog system taught by Johnson, because the use of data synchronization in a procurement/catalog system will increase data integrity.

#### *Response to Arguments*

4. Applicant's arguments filed June 28, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's arguments are moot in view of the new grounds of rejections necessitated by Applicant's statement regarding common ownership with previously relied upon prior art to Cason.

*Conclusion*

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jim McClellan whose telephone number is (703) 305-0212. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski, can be reached at (703) 308-5183.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks  
Washington D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306 (Official communications) or  
(703) 746-3516 (Informal/Draft communications).

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, 7<sup>th</sup> floor receptionist.

*James S. McClellan*  
James S. McClellan  
Primary Examiner  
A.U. 3627

jsm  
October 17, 2004